

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) An apparatus for covering payloads, said apparatus comprising:
- (a) a suspended track;
 - (b) a hoist, slidably engaged to said track, said hoist having a retractable line;
 - (c) a spreader bar attachable to said retractable line, said bar having means for attaching to a covering; and
 - (d) means to move said hoist.

A2 [Please amend claim 2 as follows:]

2. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
- (a) a rod that traverses beneath said track.

[Please amend claim 3 as follows:]

3. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said rod is rotatable.

[Please amend claim 13 as follows:]

13. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 4 further comprising:
- (a) means for a person to be secured to said apparatus to protect against falling from a payload being covered by said apparatus.

A3 [Please amend claim 14 as follows:]

14. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said means for a person to be secured comprise:
- (a) a tether line suspended from said support structure in generally parallel fashion to said track; and
 - (b) a safety cable slidably engaged at one end to said tether line.

Remarks concerning these amendments have been previously provided in applicant's response filed on October 18, 2002. Applicant incorporates those remarks by reference in support of each of the above amendments.